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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Twelfth session
25 March-4 April 1991
Agenda item 13

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Ioan BARAC (Romania)

Chapter VI

NEW TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING REMOTE SENSING, FOR IDENTIFYING, EXPLORING FOR AND ASSESSING NATURAL RESOURCES (Item 7)

1. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 28 March 1991. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on information referral systems on satellite remote-sensing data (E/C.7/1991/7).

2. The representative of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development introduced the report on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources. He informed the Committee of two events in the Natural Resources and Energy Division related to remote-sensing activities: a seminar on the receiving and processing of digital satellite data, to be held in 1991 in Berlin, and a United Nations seminar to be held during the Congress for the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, in September 1992 in Washington, D.C. The Division, he said, had also serviced the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in February/March.

3. One delegation noted that the report contained interesting information which would assist countries to obtain data on their natural resources through existing

national and international remote-sensing systems. It also noted with satisfaction that the Department had fulfilled, at a high technical level, the request by the Committee on Natural Resources and the Economic and Social Council on the subject. However, it noted that part III of the report was of a general nature and did not contain concrete information on existing projects or on criteria for developing new projects. Therefore, the delegation suggested that the Committee request the United Nations Secretariat to prepare a report presenting that information for consideration by the Committee at its thirteenth session.

4. During its consideration of the item, the Committee was also informed of the collaborative efforts in the application of remote sensing for natural resources assessment and environmental monitoring being undertaken with the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development in the Asia/Pacific region by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Those efforts were carried out by ESCAP through its UNDP-funded Regional Remote Sensing Programme. Action had been taken by the ESCAP secretariat for the continuation of activities under the United Nations regular budget.